NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND

Fact Sheet No. 5 NOVEMBER 1994

INSTALLATION RESTORATION PROGRAM TIME CRITICAL REMOVAL ACTION SITES 4, 6, AND 10

Introduction

The Navy has developed an action memorandum and a work plan for a time critical removal action at three sites at Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island. The three sites scheduled for cleanup are the former Public Works Center Salvage Yard (Site 4), the Seaview Heritage Park Salvage Yard (Site 6), and the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (Site 10). The contamininant of concern is spilled polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), which were part of the dielectric fluid in electrical transformers. These contaminants present exposure hazards through inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact.

The Navy proposes to remediate these sites with an innovative, on-site soil treatment technology. The planned removal action will reduce PCB concentrations in the soil at all three sites to levels acceptable to protect human health and the environment. An action memorandum and work plan have been submitted to local and State of California environmental regulatory agencies for review. The action memorandum and work plan are also available for public review, and the Navy seeks community input to help determine the best course of action.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

This fact sheet is part of a series of updates designed to inform the public on hazardous waste investigations and cleanup activities at NAS North Island.

The Navy requests public comment on the action memorandum and work plan that have been prepared for the remediation of Sites 4, 6, 10 at NAS North Island. A 30-day public review period opens November 3, 1994. If you have questions or comments or would like more information, please contact the Navy Public Affairs Office.

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Please see the following pages for a description of the remediation project and for additional sources of information.

Installation Restoration Program

This time critical removal action is being conducted under the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program. The IR Program was established under the Federal "Superfund" program (the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986) to address potential public health and environmental impacts resulting from past hazardous waste management and disposal operations. Through the IR Program, the Navy identifies, investigates, and remediates contaminated sites to comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and to correct or prevent endangerment to public health and the environment. The Navy and the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) serve as the lead federal and State agencies responsible for the clean up efforts at Sites 4, 6, and 10. The Southwest Division Naval Facilities Engineering Command will oversee the remediation activities, which will be performed by IT Corporation.

Site Description and Environmental History

Sites 4, 6, and 10 are located in the east, south, and west portions of NAS North Island, respectively. See the site location map for site locations and the proposed soil treatment area. Site 4 was the Public Works Center Salvage Yard from 1967 to 1977. The site is fenced, covered with plastic, and sits at the west end of the driving range associated with the golf course. The site, consisting of ap-

proximately 3 acres of unpaved surface, was used to store equipment and materials, including electrical transformers containing PCB fluids. All of the electrical transformers were removed in 1978, but there was evidence that PCBs had been released into the soil.

Site 6 is located at what is now the Seaview Heritage Park, a recreational facility near Breakers Beach. Between 1940 and 1965, the unpaved site was used by the Public Works Center as a salvage yard for excess materials (including up to 100 electrical transformers containing PCBs) from construction projects. In 1965, the site was covered with imported fill material, planted with grass, and developed into the present-day park. The PCB area is fenced.

Site 10, the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), consists of approximately 17 acres of mostly paved land at the west end of the island. Unusable aircraft and surplus materials related to aircraft operation and maintenance activities were dismantled, reduced to scrap, and stored at this site. Destruction and storage operations were initiated in the 1940s and continued until 1972. Prior to the 1970s, an unpaved area was used for destruction of classified electronic components and for storing scrap metal, oil and other petroleum products, batteries, and surplus material. Draining of fluids, spills and leakage from batteries, transformers, drums, and other containers contributed to the soil contamination. Since 1972, DRMO has used the site to store surplus and scrap metal for resale to civilian dealers.

Previous Investigations

The IR Program applies a phased approach to site investigations and cleanup. Based on an assessment of information from historical records, aerial photographs, on-site and aerial surveys, and personnel interviews, 12 sites were initially identified. The sites are being investigated to determine the nature of the contaminants and to identify specific contaminant levels. Soil, groundwater, surface water, and shoreline sediments have been sampled and analyzed for suspected contaminants. Information obtained from previous investigations has been used to evaluate potential clean up alternatives for each site.

Extensive assessments, remedial investigations, and feasibility studies have been performed at Sites, 4, 6, and 10. Previous investigations at the three sites indicate the presence of soil contamination from PCBs, a suspected human carcinogen, at levels above State of California and federal cleanup action levels. Analytical results at Site 4 indicate the PCB contamination is present in the soil at concentrations ranging from less than detection limit to 35,000 parts per million (ppm). The average PCB concentration at the site is 695 ppm. The volume of contaminated soil is estimated to be 6,300 cubic yards.

Site 6 sample results indicate that the site is contaminated with PCB concentrations ranging from less than detection limit up to 720 ppm. The average PCB concentration at the site is 0.17 ppm. The volume of contaminated soil at Site 6 is estimated to be 3,840 cubic yards.

Sample results from surface soil, shallow soil borings, and monitoring wells at Site 10 indicate that a small portion of the site is contaminated with PCB concentrations ranging from less than detection limit to 520 ppm. The average PCB concentration at the site is 6.03 ppm. In all, Site 10 is estimated to contain 5,780 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated soil.

The Proposed Removal Action Work Plan

The work plan presents the proposed scope of work for the remediation efforts at Sites 4, 6, and 10. A specific remediation strategy for each site has been developed. This includes the identification and description of project goals, methods for excavation, removal and treatment of contaminated soil, site controls, health and safety procedures, sample verification techniques, excavation plans, site restoration, and monitoring after closure of the sites.

The proposed action is based on an integrated remedial approach that provides safe, timely, and cost-effective treatment and containment of contaminated materials. Rather than incinerating or landfilling the contaminated soil, the work plan proposes to use an innovative process that washes PCBs from the soil. Using this technique, PCB-contaminated soil is loaded into a mobile solvent extraction system and treated with a soil-washing solution. This process dissolves PCBs from the soil. The contaminated solvent then passes through a solvent recovery unit where contaminants are concentrated, thereby reducing the waste volume for disposal. The reclaimed solvent is reused in the soil-washing process, and the soil is treated in the unit until the PCB concentrations are below the cleanup level.

The work plan proposes to begin remediation activities at Site 4. Soil containing PCBs at concentrations greater than 25 ppm will be excavated and treated on-site using the soil-washing process. Soil from the perimeter of the site containing PCBs at concentrations greater than 0.066 ppm will be excavated and consolidated within Site 4. Remediation of PCB-contaminated soil at Sites 6 and 10 will consist of excavating the soil contaminated with PCBs at concentrations greater than 25 ppm and transporting the soil to the Site 4 treatment area for soil-washing. Soil from Sites 6 and 10 containing PCBs at concentrations between 0.066 ppm and 25 ppm will be excavated and consolidated within the boundary of Site 4. After washing, the soil will have PCB concentrations less than 2 ppm and will be backfilled and compacted within the boundaries of Site 4. Finally, a soil cap consisting of 18 inches of clean borrow soil and

6 inches of topsoil will be placed over the site, an irrigation system installed, and the surface hydroseeded. Restoration of Sites 6 and 10 will be accomplished by backfilling the excavations to original grade using clean borrow soil and, at Site 6, replanting with grass.

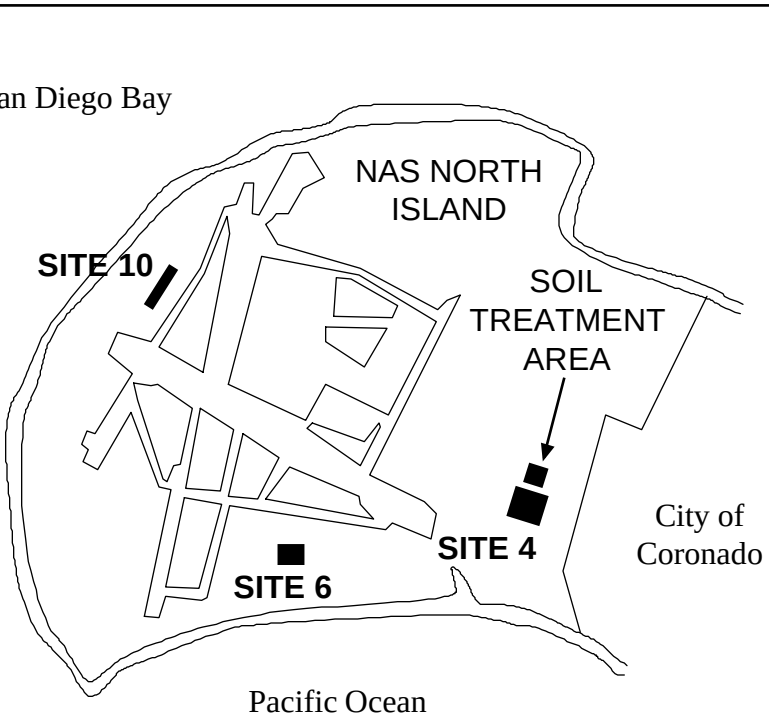
Community Involvement

Community relations is an integral part of the IR Program. The Navy aims to inform the community about the environmental remediation projects and to provide the community with opportunities to participate in the decision-making process. This fact sheet is part of the continuing effort to keep the public informed of environmental cleanup activities at NAS North Island.

The Navy established the NAS North Island Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) this summer as another way to increase public involvement opportunities. The RAB holds monthly meetings to provide a public forum for discussion and exchange of information related to ongoing remediation projects. The Board is comprised of community members, Navy officials, and state and local environmental regulators. A special PCB training session was presented to the RAB on August 10, 1994, and a tour of the remediation sites was conducted on September 17, 1994. All RAB meetings are also open to the public. The Navy encourages the public to share additional comments and concerns during the planning stages of the time critical removal action at Sites 4, 6, and 10. The next RAB meeting will be held November 16, 1994.

The work plan and action memorandum were completed and presented to DTSC, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Air Pollution Control District, and San Diego County Environmental Health Services for review on November 3, 1994. Prior to submitting the work plan to the regulatory agencies, the RAB reviewed the draft work plan and provided significant comments and revisions. A public comment period on the final action memorandum and work plan will be open for 30 days and will close December 5, 1994. The action memorandum, the work plan, and a copy of the administrative record are available for review at the repositories listed on the next page.

The Navy welcomes your interest in these environmental programs. Additional fact sheets will be developed to address inquiries about the project and to provide progress reports on the cleanup activities. Please complete the mailing list coupon if you would like to be added to the NAS North Island mailing list (see last page of this fact sheet).



SITE LOCATION MAP

Information Repositories

Environmental reports and correspondence regarding the IR Sites at NAS North Island are available for public review at two information repositories:

NAS North Island
Base Library
Building 650
(619) 545-8231

Mon-Thurs:
10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m

Fri-Sat-Sun:
10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Coronado Public Library
640 Orange Avenue
Coronado, CA 92118-1526
(619) 522-7390

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1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m

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If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, then you are not on our mailing list. If you wish to be placed on the NAS North Island IR Program mailing list, please complete the coupon above, detach, and mail to the stated addressee.

For More Information:

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PUBLIC MEETING

Request for Public Comment on
Action Memorandum and
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Sites 4, 6, and 10

November 16, 1994 - 6:30 pm
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